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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/779,331	02/08/2001	Gregory E. Agoston	43170-253406 (05213-0731)	5897

7590 06/18/2003

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EXAMINER

QAZI, SABIHA NAIM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1616	18

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No. 09/779,331	Applicant(s) AGOSTON ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit 1616	
Sabiha Naim Qazi		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

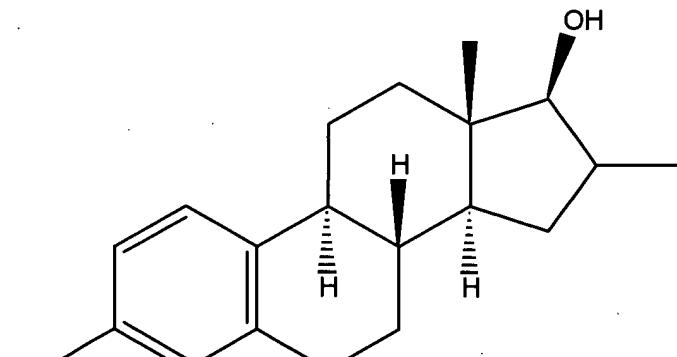
Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6) Other: _____

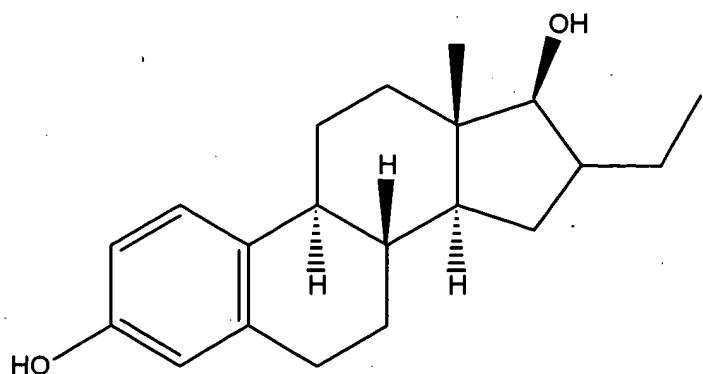
Acknowledgement is made for the response filed in paper no. 18, dated 4/14/03.

Claims 1-9 and 11-22 are pending. No claim is allowed.

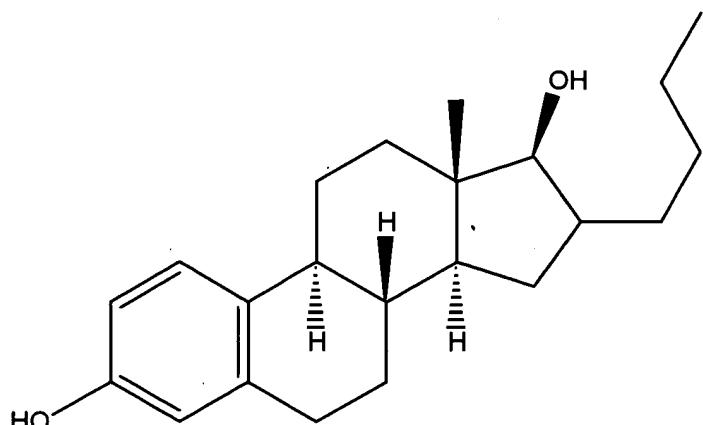
Applicant's argument is not found persuasive therefore all the rejections are maintained. Case laws cited by the Applicants are not related to the current issues. For example Ex parte Henze deals with the compounds having 5-methoxymethyl and 5-phenoxyethyl compounds which are not homologues because methoxy and phenoxy groups are not homologs, as should be clear from their structures that phenoxy group contains an oxygen attached to a phenyl group whereas methoxy group contains an oxygen attached to a methyl group. A Methyl group and a phenyl group is structurally different from each other and are not homologs. Present case is different because the difference is only of one carbon atom from the prior art.



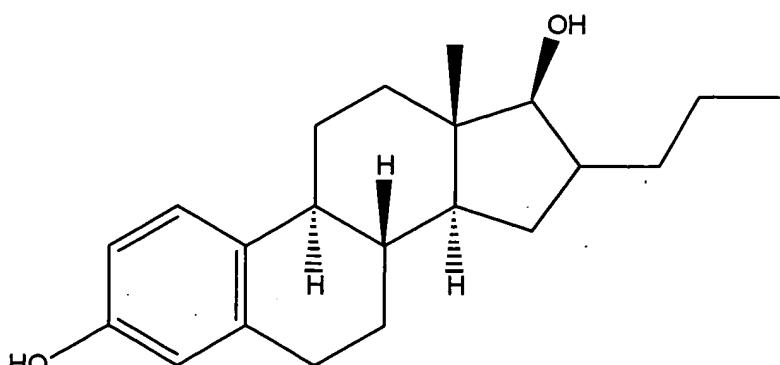
16--methylestradiol



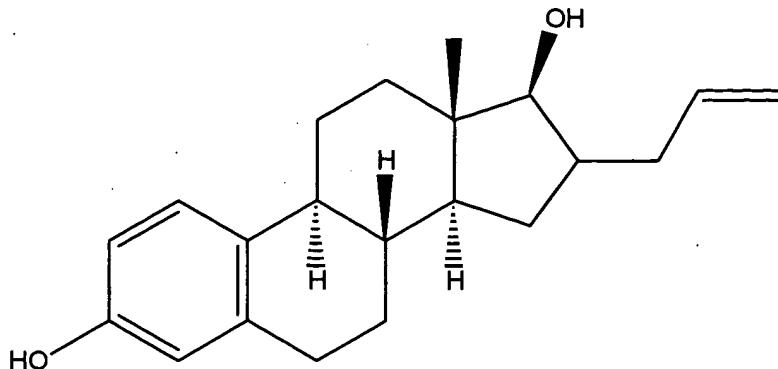
16-ethylestradiol



16-butylestradiol



16-propylestradiol



16-allylestradiol

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Claims 1-9 and 11-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1570597. The reference discloses 16-alkyl and alkenyl estradiols which has been presently claimed. See line 40 on page 3, lines 10-35 on page 4, and claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14. See the compounds cited above, which are disclosed by the reference. All these compounds are instantly claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

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skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patent ability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-9 and 11-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,570,597. The references teach 16-estradiol derivatives, which embrace presently, claimed invention. See the entire document especially lines 10-25 on page 1, lines 10-35 on page 4 and claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 14. These compounds have substantially no estrogenic activity but rather have an antiestrogen activity. See lines 15-27 on page 1.

Instant claims differ from the reference in claiming a broader scope than the prior art. Instant claims are considered obvious when in prior art R1 represents alkyl or alkenyl group and R2 is H. See compounds cited above. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to prepare additional beneficial compound useful as antiestrogen drug having an alkyl or alkenyl groups at 16-position of estradiol because prior art teaches the same groups and specific compounds at 16-position. Motivation is to prepare alkyl or alkenyl derivatives are taught.

In the light of the forgoing discussion, the Examiner's ultimate legal conclusion is that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sabiha Naim Qazi whose telephone number is 703-305-3910.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees can be reached on 703-308-4628. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.



SABIHA QAZI, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 14, 2003